

We claim:

1. A method comprising the steps of:
sending a bidder a bid form for an intellectual property auction for auctioning intellectual property of an intellectual property owner, the bid form prompting the bidder to enter bid information including registration information identifying the bidder, license type information, and bid amount information;
receiving from the bidder bid information comprising registration information, license type information, and bid amount information; and
sending to the owner of the intellectual property the license type information and the bid amount information, while withholding from the intellectual property owner the registration information until at least the conclusion of the auction.

2. The method of claim 1, wherein the step of sending comprises sending the bid information in at least a facsimile, html page, and regular mail.

3. The method of claim 1, wherein the step of receiving includes checking for duplicate bidders and storing the bid information; and
wherein the method further comprises the step of validating and registering the bidder.

4. The method of claim 3, wherein the method further comprises the step of receiving a signed license from the bidder to validate the bidder.

5. The method of claim 3, wherein the method further comprises the step of checking the registration information for a minimum required amount of registration information, the minimum required amount of registration information including at least one of a password, name, company, street, city, state, postal code, phone number, fax number, and a working electronic mail address.

6. The method of claim 3, wherein the method further comprises the steps of: creating a unique registration number from the minimum required registration information;

storing the minimum amount of registration information in a registration file system; and indexing the registration information based upon the unique registration number.

7. The method of claim 3, wherein the method further comprises the steps of: creating a bid number for the bid of the unique registration number;

storing the bid information;

verifying the bid amount information based upon the license type information; and validating the bid amount information.

8. The method of claim 7, wherein the method further comprises the step of checking the license type information for a minimum required amount of license type information, the minimum required amount of license type information comprising a license right type, business use type, and an intellectual property use type.

9. The method of claim 8, wherein the method further comprises the step of verifying the bid amount information for the minimum required amount of bid amount information, the minimum required amount of bid amount information comprising at least one of a seat rate, a minimum royalty rate, a paid-up rate, an assignment rate, and an up-charge rate, further selected by the license type information.

10. The method of claim 8, wherein the method further comprises the steps of checking the intellectual property right type information for a minimum required amount of intellectual property use type information comprising at least one of a patent license, a patent claim license, a copyright license, software license and a trademark license, further selected by a right to use, a right to make, and a right to exclude.

11. The method of claim 10, wherein the method further comprises the step of validating the received bid amount information based upon a predetermined bid amount information comprising at least one of a seat rate, a minimum royalty rate, a paid-up rate, an assignment rate, and an up-charge rate, by rejecting the received bid amount information that does not compile with the predetermined bid amount information.

12. The method of claim 11, wherein the method further comprises the steps of: checking the received bid amount information against a stored bid amount information; rejecting the received bid amount, if any of the received bid amount information is a lower amount than any of the stored bid amount information; storing the non-rejected validated bid amount information in a bid analysis file system; and indexing the bid amount information based upon the bid number

13. The method of claim 1, further comprising the steps of: evaluating the sent bid amount information and license type information; selecting the bidder as the winning bidder; and blindly notifying the winning bidder, unless a standard license change, based upon the registration number indexed with the bid number.

14. The method of claim 13, wherein the method further comprises the steps of: receiving from the winning bidder a confirming message including information identifying the winning bidder; and sending to the winning bidder the legal documents associated with the license type information.

15. The method of claim 1, further comprising determining whether the bid is a winning bid; and deleting the bid if it is not the winning bid.

16. A computer readable medium containing program instructions for execution on a computer system, which when executed the computer system, cause the computer system to perform method steps for auctioning an intellectual property, said method comprising the steps of:

sending a bidder a bid form for an intellectual property auction for auctioning intellectual property of an intellectual property owner, the bid form prompting the bidder to enter bid information including registration information identifying the bidder, license type information, and bid amount information;

receiving from the bidder bid information comprising registration information, license type information, and bid amount information; and

sending to the owner of the intellectual property the license type information and the bid amount information, while withholding from the intellectual property owner the registration information until at least the conclusion of the auction.

17. The computer readable medium of claim 16, wherein the step of sending comprises sending the bid information in at least a facsimile, html page, and regular mail.

18. The computer readable medium of claim 16, wherein the step of receiving includes checking for duplicate bidders and storing the bid information; and

wherein the computer readable medium further comprises instructions for the computer system to perform the steps of validating and registering the bidder.

19. The computer readable medium of claim 18, wherein the computer readable medium further comprises the step of receiving a signed license from the bidder to validate the bidder.

20. The computer readable medium of claim 18, wherein the computer readable medium further comprises instructions for the computer system to perform the step of checking the registration information for a minimum required amount of registration information, the minimum required amount of registration information including at least

one of a password, name, company, street, city, state, postal code, phone number, fax number, and a working electronic mail address.

21. The computer readable medium of claim 18, wherein the computer readable medium further comprises the steps of:

creating a unique registration number from the minimum required registration information;

storing the minimum amount of registration information in a registration file system; and indexing the registration information based upon the unique registration number.

22. The computer readable medium of claim 18, wherein the computer readable medium further comprises instructions for the computer system to perform the steps of:

creating a bid number for the bid of the unique registration number;

storing the bid information;

verifying the bid amount information based upon the license type information; and

validating the bid amount information.

23. The computer readable medium of claim 22, wherein the computer readable medium further comprises instructions for the computer system to perform the step of checking the license type information for a minimum required amount of license type information, the minimum required amount of license type information comprising a license right type, business use type, and an intellectual property use type.

24. The computer readable medium of claim 23, wherein the computer readable medium further comprises instructions for the computer system to perform the step of verifying the bid amount information for the minimum required amount of bid amount information, the minimum required amount of bid amount information comprising at least one of a seat rate, a minimum royalty rate, a paid-up rate, an assignment rate, and an up-charge rate, further selected by the license type information.

25. The computer readable medium of claim 23, wherein the computer readable medium further comprises instructions for the computer system to perform the steps of checking the intellectual property right type information for a minimum required amount of intellectual property use type information comprising at least one of a patent license, a patent claim license, a copyright license, a software license, and a trademark license, further selected by a right to use, a right to make, and a right to exclude.

26. The computer readable medium of claim 25, wherein the computer readable medium further comprises instructions for the computer system to perform the step of validating the received bid amount information based upon a predetermined bid amount information comprising at least one of a seat rate, a minimum royalty rate, a paid-up rate, an assignment rate, and an up-charge rate, by rejecting the received bid amount information that does not compile with the predetermined bid amount information.

27. The computer readable medium of claim 26, wherein the computer readable medium further comprises instructions for the computer system to perform the steps of: checking the received bid amount information against a stored bid amount information; rejecting the received bid amount, if any of the received bid amount information is a lower amount than any of the stored bid amount information; storing the non-rejected validated bid amount information in a bid analysis file system; and indexing the bid amount information based upon the bid number

28. The computer readable medium of claim 16, further comprising the steps of: evaluating the sent bid amount information and license type information; selecting the bidder as the winning bidder; and blindly notifying the winning bidder, unless a standard contract change, based upon the registration number indexed with the bid number.

29. The computer readable medium of claim 28, wherein the computer readable medium further comprises instructions for the computer system to perform the steps of: receiving from the winning bidder a confirming message including information identifying the winning bidder; and sending to the winning bidder the legal documents associated with the license type information.

30. The computer readable medium of claim 16, further comprising determining whether the bid is a winning bid; and deleting the bid if it is not the winning bid.

31. A system for auctioning an intellectual property, comprising:
means for sending a bidder a bid form for an intellectual property auction for auctioning intellectual property of an intellectual property owner, the bid form prompting the bidder to enter bid information including registration information identifying the bidder, license type information, and bid amount information;
means for receiving from the bidder bid information comprising registration information, license type information, and bid amount information; and
means for sending to the owner of the intellectual property the license type information and the bid amount information, while withholding from the intellectual property owner the registration information until at least the conclusion of the auction.

32. The system of claim 31, wherein the means for sending comprises sending the bid information in at least a facsimile, html page, and regular mail.

33. The system of claim 31, wherein the means for receiving includes means for checking for duplicate bidders and storing the bid information; and
wherein the system further comprises the means for validating and registering the bidder.

34. The system of claim 33, wherein the system further comprises the means for receiving a signed license from the bidder to validate the bidder.

35. The system of claim 33, wherein the system further comprises the means for checking the registration information for a minimum required amount of registration information, the minimum required amount of registration information including at least one of a password, name, company, street, city, state, postal code, phone number, fax number, and a working electronic mail address.

36. The system of claim 33, wherein the system further comprises the means for: creating a unique registration number from the minimum required registration information; storing the minimum amount of registration information in a registration file system; and indexing the registration information based upon the unique registration number.

37. The system of claim 33, wherein the system further comprises the means for: creating a bid number for the bid of the unique registration number; storing the bid information; verifying the bid amount information based upon the license type information; and validating the bid amount information.

38. The system of claim 37, wherein the system further comprises the means for checking the license type information for a minimum required amount of license type information, the minimum required amount of license type information comprising a license right type, business use, and an intellectual property use type.

39. The system of claim 38, wherein the system further comprises the means for verifying the bid amount information for the minimum required amount of bid amount information, the minimum required amount of bid amount information comprising at

least one of a seat rate, a minimum royalty rate, a paid-up rate, an assignment rate, and an up-charge rate, further selected by the license type information.

40. The system of claim 38, wherein the system further comprises the means for checking the intellectual property right type information for a minimum required amount of intellectual property use type information comprising at least one of a patent license, a patent claim license, a copyright license, a software license, and a trademark license, further selected by a right to use, a right to make, and a right to exclude.

41. The system of claim 40, wherein the system further comprises the means for validating the received bid amount information based upon a predetermined bid amount information comprising at least one of a seat rate, a minimum royalty rate, a paid-up rate, an assignment rate, and an up-charge rate, by rejecting the received bid amount information that does not compile with the predetermined bid amount information.

42. The system of claim 41, wherein the system further comprises the means for: checking the received bid amount information against a stored bid amount information; rejecting the received bid amount, if any of the received bid amount information is a lower amount than any of the stored bid amount information; storing the non-rejected validated bid amount information in a bid analysis file system; and indexing the bid amount information based upon the bid number.

43. The system of claim 31, further comprising the means for: evaluating the sent bid amount information and license type information; selecting the bidder as the winning bidder; and blindly notifying the winning bidder, unless a standard contract change, based upon the registration number indexed with the bid number.

44. The system of claim 43, wherein the system further comprises the means for: receiving from the winning bidder a confirming message including information identifying the winning bidder; and sending to the winning bidder the legal documents associated with the license type information.

45. The system of claim 30, further comprising determining whether the bid is a winning bid; and deleting the bid if it is not the winning bid.